

Priority Setting Narrative—Area 1, West Texas

Epidemiological Data

Morbidity data comes from the surveillance sites having surveillance specialists assigned to collect and report epi data via Sexually Transmitted Disease Management Information System (STD-MIS) and HIV/AIDS Reporting System (HARS). The surveillance site in El Paso County is the El Paso City County Health Department. The surveillance site for the outlying counties is the Texas Department of Health (TDH).

The HIV/AIDS epidemiological/morbidity data is compiled by the TDH, and morbidity scores based on the rates of infection per 100,000 of the population for a specific geographic area, the higher the rate, the higher the morbidity score.

The general population of HIV/AIDS cases is broken down into sub-categories called Behaviorally Defined Target Populations (BDTPS). Each BDTP is a grouping of people with the same Risk Factors for HIV infection, such as males who have sex with males (M/MS), IDU men, etc. Then these BDTPS are broken down by ethnicity, which comprise “sub-populations.” Each sub-population is given a Morbidity Score and a Risk Score, which determines a Ranking for each sub-population. Risk scores are obtained from local area HIV Prevention Counseling and Partner Elicitation (PCPE) reported data. The Morbidity score and the Risk score are added together and the resultant score is indicative of the magnitude of infections and risk for each sub-population.

The sub-populations are then grouped by geographic location, and designated as either a High Morbidity Analysis Zone (HMAZ) or a Low Morbidity Analysis Zone (LMAZ). In West Texas, Area One, HAMZ is inclusive of El Paso County, with a total population in 2000 of 775,004. The LMAZ includes Brewster, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Hudspeth, and Presidio Counties, with a total population in 2000 of 29,589.

CPG’s Priority Setting Process

The Needs Assessment Committee, the Interventions Committee, and the Epidemiological Committee of the West Texas Community Planning Group shared responsibility for setting priorities for West Texas. The three committees met twice to complete the epi tables during the months of August and September of 2001. During the meetings, the committees reviewed the epi profiles provided by the TDH and based the scores and rankings on the quantitative data that was provided by the TDH. Using the calculations that the three committees agreed upon, the Epidemiological Committee prepared the epi tables for inclusion in the Area Prevention Plan. In October of 2001, the Community Planning Group approved the completed epidemiological tables.

Tab 6
List of Prioritized Subpopulations for Area 1-West Texas

BDTP/Subpopulation	HMAZ 1 El Paso County		HMAZ 2		HMAZ 3		HMAZ 4		LMAZ Rural West Texas	
	Score	Rank*	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank
M/MS/African-American	93	11-M							0	11-L *
M/MS/Hispanic	144	2-H							6	4-L
M/MS/White	103.5	8-M							33	1-M
IDU men/African-American	168	1-H							0	12-L
IDU men/Hispanic	137.5	3-H							6	5-L
IDU men/White	127.75	5-H							3	7-L
IDU women/African-American	115	6-M							0	13-L
IDU women/Hispanic	131.5	4-H							18	3-M
IDU women/White	96	10-M							3	8-L
F/MS men/African-American	82	13-M							0	14-L
F/MS men/Hispanic	92	12-M							6	6-L
F/MS men/White	56	15-L							3	9-L
F/MS women/African-American	113	7-M							0	15-L
F/MS women/Hispanic	96.75	9-M							33	2-M
F/MS women/White	60	14-L							3	10-L

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- H-High Ranking
 - M-Medium Ranking
 - L-Low Ranking